

**CHEMUNG COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
December 4, 2007**

PRESENT: Thomas Curran, DDS William G. Howard, MD
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN
Robert Lambert, MD

ABSENT: Paul Shore, DDS William Roe, PE
Ken Sobel, MD

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Page Lou Ann Corsi
Thomas Kump, PE

Prior to the meeting the CCBH received the following:

1. Agenda for December 4, 2007 CCBH Meeting
2. CCBH Minutes from September 25, 2007
3. Environmental Health Services Reports for September & October 2007

Items distributed during the meeting:

4. Environmental Health Services Report for November 2007
5. Clinic/Home Visiting Services Report Dated December 4, 2007
6. Perinatal Dental Coalition Report Dated November 26, 2007
7. C.C. Legislature Resolution #07-428 Regarding Smoking Rules For Certain County Properties
8. List Of Possible Collaborations For Clearing The Air In Chemung County

Dr. Howard called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded by Dr. Friend that the minutes of the September 25, 2007 Board of Health meeting be approved and accepted. Motion approved.

AYES: Thomas Curran, DDS William G. Howard, MD
Christopher Friend, PhD Mary Ann Baker, RN
Robert Lambert, MD

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Paul Shore, DDS William Roe, PE
Ken Sobel, MD

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Harry Shepard was unable to attend the CCBH meeting due to illness. No written report was provided. There was no further discussion on any financial matters.

3. SERVICE REPORTS

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** – Thomas Kump distributed a copy of the November 2007 EHS Report and had nothing to add to that report or the other two reports that were distributed to the CCBH prior to the meeting. A question was raised about the rabid animal contacts that had been occurring. Mr. Kump explained that fortunately the recent contacts had been with vaccinated pets and not humans. This only required the need for a rabies vaccination booster shot for the pets and no human treatment. Another question regarding radon test kits was raised. There has not been any mapping of where the test kits were being utilized at this point in time. Some individuals have already received their results and had contacted EHS for guidance. Home visits have been made to several homes so far. The on-line results of food service establishment inspections were discussed. The majority of

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the feedback has been positive. One operator complained that they felt that EHS was “making them look bad” by posting these inspection results. Another FSE owner was concerned about the generic violation descriptions that were being used. Mr. Kump replied that the second concern was legitimate and that corrective action was taken to address that concern. A copy of the actual inspection report is now being posted on the website so that there is no confusion as to what the actual violation was that occurred.

- B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING** – Lou Ann Corsi commented on the Home Visiting Services report dated December 4, 2007 that was distributed at the meeting. Ms. Corsi pointed out that the WIC caseload has increased by about 100 clients. This means that there will be more federal funds available to WIC to perform their objectives. The Montour Falls satellite site has recently moved to the new Human Services Center in the former Jamesway building which will be an improvement. She also noted that they are considering the addition of a site in the Town of Tyrone. A new registered dietician was recently hired. The other item of importance to report on was that the NYSDOH arrived just after Thanksgiving to conduct a Survey. The Survey Team was here for 6 days and conducted quite a thorough evaluation. One item noted was the lack of logging on to the HPN on a daily basis. They were also asking for personnel files on contract therapists. Although the final written report has not been received yet, Ms. Corsi reported that she thought that the Survey went extremely well. The report will be coming to the attention of the CCBH President.
- C. DENTAL SERVICES REPORT** – Mr. Page reported that the Dental Clinic Statistical Summaries were not included in the mailing as Mr. Shepard has been away from the office due to illness. However, Dr. Curran did provide a copy of the Perinatal Dental Coalition Report dated November 26, 2007 for the CCBH to review. Members can contact Dr. Curran directly if there are any questions regarding the report.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. SMOKING RESTRICTIONS IN COUNTY PARKS** – Mr. Page distributed a copy of the Chemung County Legislature’s Resolution Number 07-428 entitled “Resolution adopting amendments to the rules, regulations and administrative guidelines for Harris Hill Park, the Park Station Recreation Center, and the Robert S. Turner Chemung County Fairgrounds.” This was the resolution that was passed to restrict smoking in public areas of these County-owned facilities. Dr. Friend added that he observed a lot of support from his colleagues on the Legislature and that it is expected that more resolutions will be proposed in 2008 to further restrict smoking in Chemung County.
- 2. DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM STATUS** – Ms. Corsi updated the CCBH on the status of this program. A Dental Hygienist has been hired and has started her employment with the Department. In order to satisfy State requirements, some of the program’s policies and procedures will need to be revised to reflect language required by the State. Meetings have been held with the school district and it is now just a matter of time to wait to receive the final approval from NYSDOH. The initial start-up funds for this program will be fully funded by the NYSDOH, but as the program gets underway, there will be the ability to bill Child Health Plus and Medicaid for reimbursement and it is hopeful that the program may end up being self-sustaining into the future, even after the State funding has been depleted. The program is geared toward 2nd through 5th grade students. Once a child in this age-range has been “sealed”, there will not be the need for any further sealant through this program.
- 3. KENNEDY VALVE GRANT PROGRAM STATUS** – Mr. Page began the discussion by explaining that the City of Elmira is the actual Lead Agency with this grant and that the City will have a contract with the County to perform some of the services allowed for in the grant. They have already received the first \$500,000.00 installment of the \$1.5 million grant. It is expected that the program will be fully up and running by the end of January 2008. Ms. Corsi reported that the blood lead testing machines have been purchased and staff are working on getting those machines deployed to the various doctor offices where they will be utilized. Mr. Page reiterated a concern about the low number of children that are currently being tested for lead as per the NYSDOH statistics. Our goal is to see the number of children tested for lead increase by 50% as a result of this program. Ms. Corsi added that we have had a problem in getting one-and two-year olds tested for lead. It is the law that this occur, but there is no penalty associated with non-compliance with the law. Mr. Kump reported that EHS will be obtaining a new XRF (x-ray fluorescence) machine to test homes for lead. The bid package has been released and bids are due on December 13th. Once the XRF is purchased, the successful bidder will need to make arrangements to provide training to all the

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staff that will be using the device. A NYSDOH permit will also be needed to possess and use this equipment prior to actually receiving the XRF. Until now, the only way that EHS could go to a home and test for lead was if there was a child that was identified as having an elevated blood lead level. When this program is launched, EHS will be able to go to homes upon request of the property owner and conduct an environmental assessment free of charge to the homeowner. Also, funds will be available through grants and low-interest loans to assist homeowners in correcting the identified lead hazards.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **FLU CLINICS** – Ms. Corsi reported that there have been nearly 500 flu vaccinations administered thus far this season. One problem this year is that everyone seems to have a lot of vaccine available to them. Reported shortages of vaccine seem to increase the demand for the vaccine. Another issue is that people are becoming complacent due to a lack of many cases of flu so far this season. When there are a number of deaths due to flu, especially among children, that increases the community’s awareness and there seems to be a larger demand for the vaccine. There are about 500 doses of vaccine and more clinics may be scheduled in the future.
2. **CLEARING THE AIR... NEXT STEPS** – Mr. Page suggested that this item be tabled to the January 2008 CCBH meeting when a larger number of members are present to discuss. As a reminder, Mr. Page re-distributed a copy of the “Possible Collaborations For Clearing The Air In Chemung County” for review by CCBH members prior to the next meeting. Dr. Howard commented that he was very pleased with the support that has been received from both the County Executive’s office and the County Legislature over the last year on this topic.
4. **ELECTION OF CCBH OFFICERS** – Mr. Page reported that action is needed on this per the By-Laws of the CCBH. Ms. Baker will move from her position of Vice President to the position of President for the next 2 years. One of the two main officers needs to be a doctor, so it was suggested that Dr. Sobel be nominated to the position of Vice President for the next 2 years.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dr. Curran and seconded by Dr. Lambert that Dr. Kenneth Sobel be elected to the office of Vice President of the Chemung County Board of Health (if willing to accept that responsibility) to be effective for the calendar years 2008 and 2009. Motion approved.

AYES: Thomas Curran, DDS
Christopher Friend, PhD
Robert Lambert, MD
William G. Howard, MD
Mary Ann Baker, RN

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Paul Shore, DDS
Ken Sobel, MD
William Roe, PE

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Howard adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 PM

Next meeting:

**Board of Health Meeting
January 22, 2008 @ 7:30 PM
Health Department Conference Room**